



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



**International Treaty  
on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture**

**Item 9.1 of the Provisional Agenda**

**TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

**Rome, Italy, 20–24 November 2023**

**Report on Implementation and Operations of the Multilateral System**

**Executive Summary**

This document provides an overview of developments in the implementation and operations of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System) since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body. It provides information on material available and an analysis of germplasm transfers within the Multilateral System. The report also contains information on some of the recent training and capacity-building activities undertaken by the Secretariat, in partnership with other organizations.

The document further highlights collaboration with national focal points and partner organizations for the preparation of reports and analyses, and to support implementation of the Multilateral System. Given that only nine months have elapsed since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, the document provides updates on ongoing implementation of relevant decisions of the Ninth Session.

**Guidance Sought**

The Governing Body is invited to take note of the report on implementation and operations of the Multilateral System and provide guidance for its further development, taking into account the elements for a Resolution that are contained in *Annex 2*.

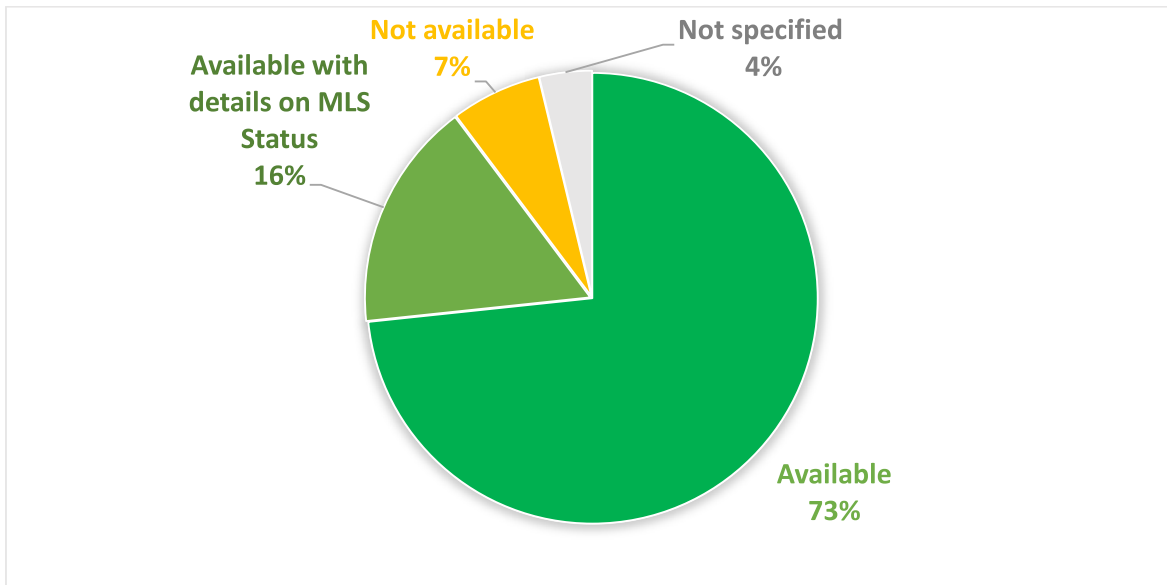
## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on the implementation and operations of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System or MLS) as of 30 June 2023, unless otherwise indicated. It provides information on the material available in the Multilateral System and the support activities undertaken to assist users on the operations of the MLS and the use of Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA), as well as the related reporting obligations.
2. Since the previous report was presented to the Governing Body in September 2022, the current report covers the nine months that have elapsed since then.
3. At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body decided to postpone several reviews and assessments foreseen with regard to the Multilateral System and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report for the consideration of the Governing Body. The *Report on Possible Measures to Encourage Natural and Legal Persons to Include Material in the Multilateral System and Other Reviews under the Multilateral System* is contained in the document, IT/GB-10/23/9.1.2.
4. The *Report on the Emergency Reserve for Germplasm Collections at Risk* is available as document IT/GB-10/23/9.1.3, and the *Report on the Operations of the Third Party Beneficiary* is available as IT/GB-10/23/9.1.4.
5. Issues related to enhancement of the functioning of the Multilateral System are considered separately, under Agenda Item 9.2, Enhancement of the Multilateral System.
6. Since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, the Secretariat has continued to carry out its tasks based on the existing consolidated advice and recommendations to stakeholders by the Governing Body, in order to facilitate the reporting process under the SMTA by Contracting Parties and other users through electronic means.
7. The Secretariat has also continued to manage the MLS Data Store operations to develop and make available online aggregate statistics on the transfer of materials. Section IV of this document, Analysis of the Germplasm Flow under the Multilateral System, presents an overview of current trends in the distribution of plant genetic material for food and agriculture (PGRFA), while *Annex 1* contains some additional key datasets and regionally disaggregated data.
8. In *Annex 2*, the Secretary presents elements for a possible Resolution on the implementation and operations of the Multilateral System. The final Resolution will compile draft decision elements proposed in the other documents pertaining to agenda item 9.1.

## II. AVAILABILITY AND TRANSFER OF MATERIAL IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

9. At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to update the report on the global availability of material in the Multilateral System for the Eleventh Session. What follows is a summary of the current information and the main data sources available.
10. As of 30 June 2023, PGRFA holders had reported the availability of 1 313 028 accessions in the Multilateral System through the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GLIS). Almost 90 percent of the materials with records published in GLIS are materials available in the Multilateral System, as shown in Figure 1.

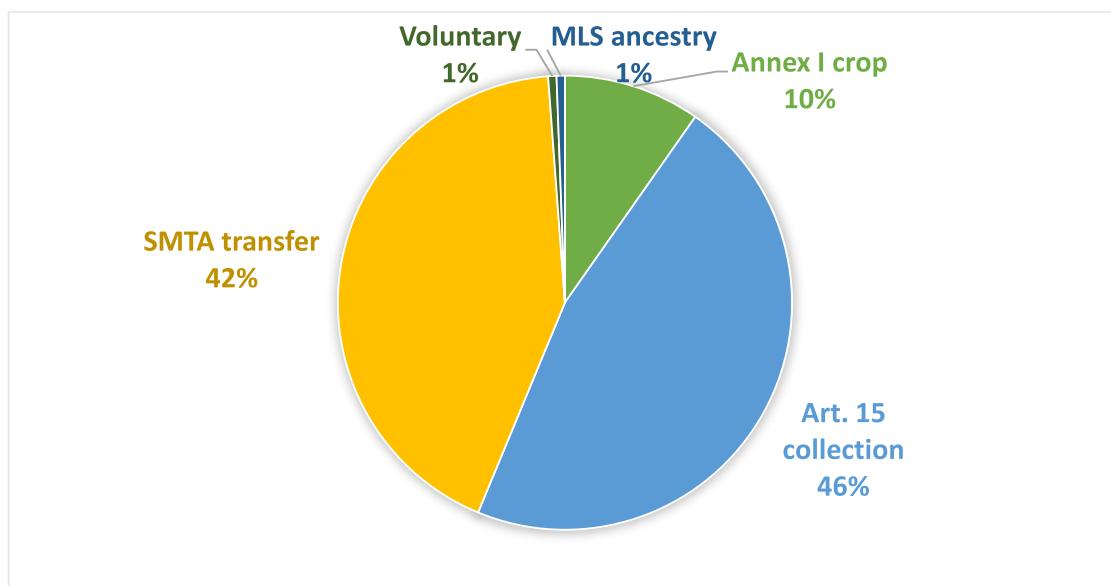
**Figure 1. Availability of PGRFA in the Multilateral System, by MLS Status <sup>1</sup>**



Source: ITPGRFA Secretariat, as of 30 June 2023

11. For 16 percent of those materials, the descriptor MLS Status registered with the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) provides additional information on the origin of the material. Figure 2 shows the reason that the material is in the Multilateral System. Although the figure is not yet representative of the entire dataset, it shows the ability to gather valuable information without any additional reporting burden on the PGRFA holders.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 2. MLS Status – Origin of availability**



Source: ITPGRFA Secretariat, as of 30 June 2023

12. Additionally, the GLIS Portal publishes accession-level information from more than 89 000 PGRFA made available in the Multilateral System by various partners of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) and other

<sup>1</sup> Source for all data and figures : Secretariat of the ITPGRFA. June 2023.

<sup>2</sup> The statistics are generated using the DOI descriptor R07, "MLS Status": The status of the PGRFA with regard to the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS). See: [www.fao.org/3/a-bt113e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt113e.pdf).

projects. The Portal displays the list of PGRFA managed under each project. Users can select the project symbol to go to the project details page or the number of PGRFA to see a detailed list of the corresponding DOIs. At the time of preparation of this report, additional materials were being registered by projects under the fourth project cycle of the BSF, with the support of the help-desk.

13. Based on the analysis of the information contained in various databases and information systems, communications to the Secretary, national reports on implementation and other information sources, the Secretary has updated the list of materials available in the Multilateral System per country, international institution (including the CGIAR Centers), and natural and legal persons, as published on the website of the International Treaty, under the Multilateral System section.<sup>3</sup>

14. Given the dispersal of data sources, for the elaboration of the report on germplasm availability in the Multilateral System, the Secretariat collaborates with various partners and puts together datasets from GLIS, the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS), the European Search Catalogue for Plant Genetic Resources (EURISCO), and Genesys, as well as from direct communications to the Secretary.

15. The analysis of the data available, as of June 2023, shows no significant changes compared with the report provided in 2022, with 1.4 million materials available. It should be noted that, at the time of preparation of this report, several national and international collections had indicated that they are in the process of updating information on the holdings of their collections and that they will, in due course, communicate these data to the Secretary at accession level.

16. At the Ninth Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to collaborate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), to update the report on the global availability of material in the Multilateral System and transfer of germplasm. The update was to include a systematic analysis of reasons why there are Contracting Parties that have not placed any material in the Multilateral System, including information based on the compliance reports, subject to the availability of financial resources. The Governing Body further indicated that the report should also include information on the status of collections of vegetatively propagated material available, and information on the use of SMTA for both foreign and domestic transfers of material, and the identification of difficulties and capacity development needs related to national implementation, for the consideration of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body.

17. The Secretary collaborated with the CGRFA, the relevant technical units of FAO and a group of experts in preparation of the *Thematic Background Study on Germplasm Exchange* for The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The collaboration involved the provision of data, advice for its analysis, and a review of the narrative section of the analysis.

18. At the time of preparation of this document, the background report was not yet publicly available. Once published, the Secretary will promote its content through the International Treaty's website and include it in the documentation for this Tenth Session.

19. The exercise of collating and analysing datasets from various sources of information from the International Treaty information systems – mainly the MLS Data Store – and data from WIEWS, has shown the complementarity of the datasets. It has also helped to identify some gaps in germplasm exchange for crops that are important for food security, which are not benefiting from facilitated access under the Multilateral System.

### **III. SUPPORT TO USERS OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

20. The Secretariat has continued to assist users of the Multilateral System through the help-desk, via email and videoconference, online training sessions, and webinars organized in collaboration with other units of FAO, and in partnership with other organizations. Despite the short reporting period since the Ninth Session, several training events have been organized to support Contracting Parties and users.

21. In collaboration with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, the Secretariat participated in national capacity development workshops on the implementation of the Multilateral System in Lomé

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<sup>3</sup> [www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/the-multilateral-system/landingmls/en/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/the-multilateral-system/landingmls/en/)

(Togo), Harare (Zimbabwe), Georgetown (Guyana), and remotely in Montevideo (Uruguay) in the first semester of 2023.

22. Most of these workshops were attended by participants from different government sectors and stakeholder groups, including farmers, researchers, breeders, the private sector and civil society. The workshops also included a segment on the mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol.

23. Within the framework of the Joint Capacity Building Programme (JCBP), and under the BOLD project of the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust), as requested in Resolution 14/2022, the Secretariat has provided assistance on use of the SMTA and the reporting systems.

24. Moreover, the Secretariat actively participated in several other activities of CGIAR, for example, the Annual Genebanks Meeting in Ibadan, Nigeria (remotely), which was attended by CGIAR Centers and national agricultural research systems partners, and various sessions of the 2023 online course “Genetic Resource Policies for CGIAR Scientists”, where several aspects of implementation of the International Treaty were discussed.

25. Support was provided to stakeholders in the adoption of SMTAs and their reporting on Easy-SMTA. In particular, three institutions were assisted in fulfilling their reporting obligations. During 2023, specific support was provided to partners of the European Union (EU)-funded project BRESOV.<sup>4</sup> The partners adopted the SMTA and the Secretariat assisted the partners in issuing and reporting transfers under the SMTA.

26. A workshop organized in collaboration with the South African Development Community’s Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) was held in Harare, gathering together more than 20 representatives of Member States. The workshop focused on the Multilateral System and the SMTA, and also incorporated in its programme components related to the assignation of Digital Object Identifiers to PGRFA in the context of GLIS.

27. The Secretariat delivered various technical presentations on the Multilateral System and the SMTA in the context of the EU-funded projects BreedingValue<sup>5</sup> and INCREASE,<sup>6</sup> as well as during a workshop organized by the BSF project “Safeguarding threatened coconut diversity within the upgraded International Coconut Genebank for the South Pacific”.

28. The Secretariat also collaborated with the Global Crop Diversity Trust to improve the connection between the SMTA reporting plug-in and Easy-SMTA in the GRIN-Global Community Edition application.

29. At its Ninth Session, the Governing Body welcomed publication of the Educational Module on the Multilateral System and requested the Secretary to convert it into an online module. In January 2023, the Secretariat started a collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy for conversion of the four lessons of the module into a virtual course. The Secretariat expects to publish the English version of the online module before the Tenth Session of the Governing Body. The collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy includes promotion of the course through various online platforms and educational networks.<sup>7</sup>

#### **IV. ANALYSIS OF GERMPLASM FLOWS UNDER THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

30. As requested by the Governing Body, the Secretariat provides an analysis of the germplasm flows under the Multilateral System in *Annex I*. The analysis disaggregates the data for Contracting Parties, Article 15 institutions and non-Contracting Parties. Moreover, the report also provides statistics on transfers of material from the CGIAR Centers.

##### **A. USE OF THE SMTA AND TRANSFERS OF PGRFA**

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<sup>4</sup> [www.bresov.eu](http://www.bresov.eu)

<sup>5</sup> [www.breedingvalue.eu](http://www.breedingvalue.eu)

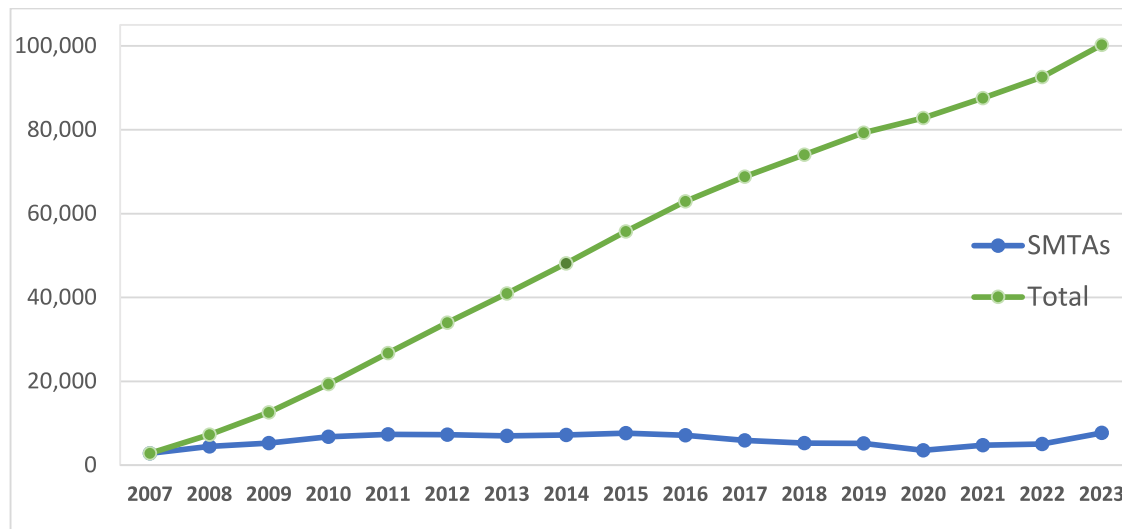
<sup>6</sup> [www.pulsesincrease.eu](http://www.pulsesincrease.eu)

<sup>7</sup> [elearning.fao.org/](http://elearning.fao.org/)

31. As of 30 June 2023, the Data Store had recorded 100 301 SMTAs (an increase of 10 percent since the last report) from providers located in 60 countries, distributing material to recipients based in 185 countries. Of those SMTAs, 87 804 were concluded by recipients in Contracting Parties to the International Treaty, while 12 497 SMTAs were sent to recipients not located in Contracting Parties. The statistical module indicates an average of 17 SMTAs reported per day since January 2007.

32. The data accumulated in the Data Store consolidate the positive trend in reporting. Figure 3 below has been generated taking into account the total number of SMTAs reported every year since 2007. It should be noted that the reporting for the last three years of the graph will continue to change before the reporting period comes to an end.

*Figure 3. Trend in SMTA reporting*



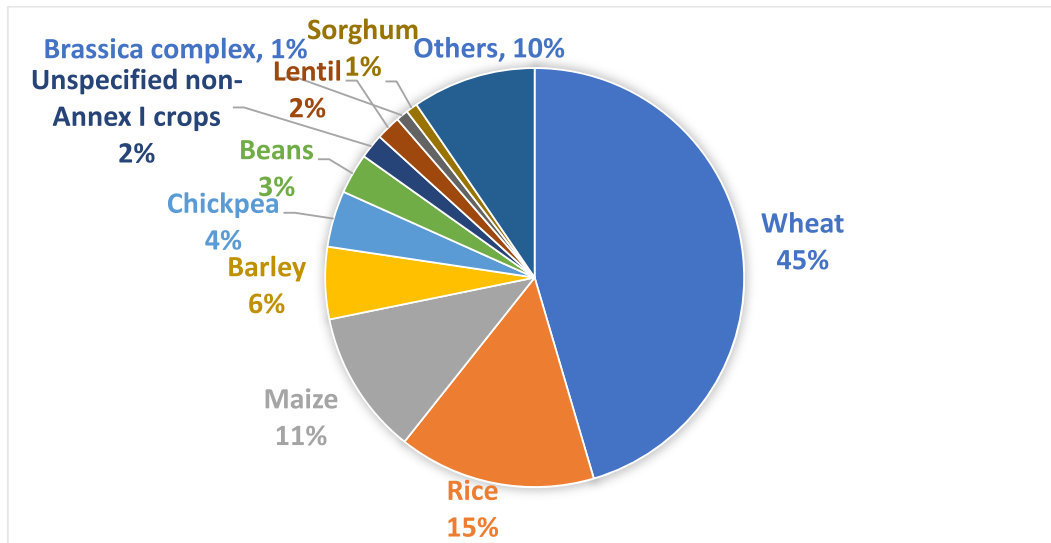
Source: ITPGRFA Secretariat, as of 30 June 2023

33. As of 30 June 2023, more than 6.6 million PGRFA had been transferred and reported. Of the total amount of material transferred, 10.7 percent was distributed by Contracting Parties, while 88.9 percent was distributed by Article 15 institutions. Almost 25 000 samples were distributed by other providers in non-Contracting Parties.

34. The crops not listed in *Annex I* of the International Treaty amount to 0.5 percent of the materials transferred with the SMTA. Further analysis of the data from 2007 up to June 2023 reveals that 4 421 agreements transferred non-*Annex I* material to recipients in developing countries – 216 more than in 2022. The number of non-*Annex I* materials distributed to developing countries amounted to 135 319 accessions, while 193 281 accessions were sent to developed countries, with increases of about 5 and 3 percent respectively, since the last report. It should be noted that a significant proportion of these involved domestic transfers.

35. Since the last report, about 217 000 materials have been transferred and reported. Reaching over 6.5 million materials transferred during the present biennium represents a major milestone in the operations of the Multilateral System.

36. The statistics at crop level show that 45 percent of the germplasm reported belongs to wheat, 15 percent to rice, 11 percent to maize, 6 percent to barley, 4 percent to chickpea, and 3 percent to beans. In general terms, we can consider that the trends displayed in Figure 4 below are very similar to those generated in 2022, and are in line with those presented in 2019.

*Figure 4. Percentage of transferred materials by crop*

Source: ITPGRFA Secretariat, as of 30 June 2023

37. During the 16 years of their operation under the Multilateral System, from January 2007 to June 2023 inclusive, CGIAR Centers' gene banks and breeding programmes distributed about 6 million PGRFA samples under about 62 500 SMTAs. Thirty-two percent of those samples were sent to recipients in Asia, 21 percent to recipients in Africa, 15 percent to Latin America and the Caribbean, 14 percent to Europe, 12 percent to the Near East, and 5 percent and 1 percent to North America and South West Pacific, respectively.

38. The number of users of Easy-SMTA has reached 18 023, up from the 9 627 users registered at the time of preparation of the 2022 report. During the first semester of 2023 alone, an additional 8 112 users registered. This significant increase in the number of user accounts is mostly due to the three rounds of the Citizen Science experiment carried out under the INCREASE project since 2021. About 10 percent of the users registered since 2011 are organizations, while the other users registered individually. In total, the System indicates that there are around 20 650 unique recipients.<sup>8</sup>

## B. PGRFA UNDER DEVELOPMENT

39. As of 30 June 2023, 20 219 SMTAs out of 100 301 had reported the transfer of "PGRFA under development", which represents 20 percent. Table 1 shows the list of the top 10 PGRFA under development" by crop, as reported to the MLS Data Store.

*Table 1. Top 10 "PGRFA under development" by crop*

Rice	506 946
Wheat	340 865
Barley	233 858
Chickpea	193 771
Lentil	113 080
Faba bean/vetch	42 727
Pearl millet	24 057
Cassava	11 883
Sorghum	10 725
Potato	9 717

<sup>8</sup> When a recipient receives material twice or more, it is only counted once in this figure.

40. Most of the SMTAs reported for the transfer of “PGRFA under development” since 2007 had an Article 15 institution as the provider. In total, about 1.5 million materials under development have been transferred and reported.

### C. INDICATORS

41. Through Resolution 1/2017, the Governing Body highlighted the contribution of the International Treaty to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 15, in particular Targets 2.5 and 15.6.

42. Since 2016, the International Treaty has made available information and data from the MLS Data Store related to the Treaty's implementation, so as to facilitate international monitoring and reporting on SDG Target 15.6.1, number of nations that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits. The indicator is under the custody of the Secretariat of the CBD.

43. In particular, from the Data Store, the International Treaty reports the “Total reported number of Standard Material Transfer Agreements (SMTAs) signed by users in the country as a recipient of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture”.<sup>9</sup>

44. This indicator is also recognized under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in connection with Target 13: Fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources, digital sequence information and associated traditional knowledge.<sup>10</sup>

### V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

45. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information contained in this document and provide any further guidance it considers necessary for the continued effective and efficient implementation of the Multilateral System. The Governing Body is also invited to take into consideration the draft elements for a possible Resolution that are provided in *Annex 2*.

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<sup>9</sup> IT/GB-9/22/14/Inf.1, Indicators under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; [www.fao.org/3/cc2073en/cc2073en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/cc2073en/cc2073en.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/13/](http://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/13/)



*Annex 1***Table 1:** Number of SMTAs reported through the MLS Data Store

	CPs	Art.15	Non-CPs	Total
<b>Total number of SMTAs reported by</b>	36 760	62 661	880	100 301
<b>With PGRFA under development</b>	106	20 113	0	20 219
<b>Number of countries where the providers are located</b>	44	20	5	
<b>Total number of recipient countries</b>				185
<b>With recipients in Contracting Parties</b>	36 218	51 063	523	87 804
<b>With recipients in non-Contracting Parties</b>	542	11 598	357	12 497
<b>Average SMTAs per day since January 2007</b>				17

**Table 2:** Number of PGRFA reported through the MLS Data Store

	CPs	Art.15	Non-CPs	Total
<b>Total number of PGRFA distributed by</b>	708 108	5 904 159	40 631	6 652 898
<b>Annex I crops</b>	485 166	5 819 801	19 331	6 324 298
<b>Non-Annex I crops</b>	222 942	84 358	21 300	328 600
<b>Non-Annex I material distributed to developing countries</b>	39 454	77 181	18 684	135 319
<b>Non-Annex I material distributed to developed countries</b>	183 488	7 177	2 616	193 281
<b>PGRFA under development (PGRFAuD)</b>	3 866	1 523 954	0	1 527 820
<b>Non-Annex I material that is PGRFAuD</b>	1 093	15 396	0	16 489
<b>Distributed to recipients in Contracting Parties by</b>	675 960	4 977 329	20 060	5 673 349
<b>Distributed to recipients in non-Contracting Parties by</b>	32 053	926 623	20 384	979 060
<b>Average PGRFA distributed per day since January 2007</b>				1 103

**Table 3:** Easy-SMTA users and SMTA recipients

<b>Number of Easy-SMTA users</b>	18 023
<b>Number of SMTA recipients</b>	20 650

**Table 4:** Number of SMTAs by source region of the provider, reported by Contracting Parties, Article 15 institutions and by non-Contracting Parties

	By CPs	By Art.15	By Non-CPs	Total
<b>Africa</b>	83	15 733	2	15 818
<b>Asia</b>	836	16 057	876	17 769
<b>Europe</b>	33 688	3 463	0	37 151
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	109	24 843	2	24 954
<b>Near East</b>	68	2 454	0	2 522
<b>North America</b>	1 683	0	0	1 683
<b>South West Pacific</b>	293	111	0	404

**Table 5:** Number of SMTAs by region of the recipient

	Total
<b>Africa</b>	12 558
<b>Asia</b>	23 805
<b>Europe</b>	40 671
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	10 292
<b>Near East</b>	7 142
<b>North America</b>	4 815
<b>South West Pacific</b>	1 018

**Table 6:** Number of PGRFA by source region of the provider

	By CPs	By Art.15	By Non-CPs	Total
<b>Africa</b>	3 542	961 425	9	964 976
<b>Asia</b>	9 958	1 186 854	40 587	1 237 399
<b>Europe</b>	582 037	258 579	0	840 616
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	3 810	3 060 510	35	3 064 355
<b>Near East</b>	2 797	434 962	0	437 759
<b>North America</b>	97 373	0	0	97 373
<b>South West Pacific</b>	8 591	1 829	0	10 420

**Table 7:** Number of PGRFA by region of the recipient

	Total
<b>Africa</b>	1 247 646
<b>Asia</b>	1 948 041
<b>Europe</b>	1 315 499
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	908 383
<b>Near East</b>	721 089
<b>North America</b>	431 484
<b>South West Pacific</b>	80 756

**Table 8:** Top 10 destination countries by number of PGRFA

<b>India</b>	947 139
<b>Kenya</b>	341 577
<b>Mexico</b>	305 414
<b>Türkiye</b>	280 163
<b>United States of America</b>	258 130
<b>Germany</b>	227 645
<b>China</b>	220 915
<b>Iran (Islamic Republic of)</b>	201 922
<b>Pakistan</b>	176 251
<b>Canada</b>	173 354

**Table 9:** Top 10 crops by distribution of PGRFA

<b>Wheat</b>	3 023 239
<b>Rice</b>	1 013 076
<b>Maize</b>	740 181
<b>Barley</b>	370 515
<b>Chickpea</b>	289 065
<b>Beans</b>	207 618
<b>Unspecified non-Annex I crop</b>	126 533
<b>Lentil</b>	126 161
<b>Brassica complex</b>	62 341
<b>Sorghum</b>	59 304

**Table 10:** Distribution of SMTAs, PGRFA samples and PGRFAuD by CGIAR Centers, with indication of the reporting period to the MLS Data Store for each Center

<b>Center</b>	<b>SMTAs</b>	<b>Samples</b>	<b>PGRFAuD</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>AfricaRice</b>	620	56 746	31 872	2007-03-05	2022-12-08
<b>Bioversity Int.</b>	580	8 999	865	2007-01-24	2022-12-14
<b>CIAT</b>	3 077	298 291	36 646	2007-01-05	2022-02-24
<b>CIMMYT</b>	27 217	3 315 680	0	2007-03-16	2023-01-10
<b>CIP</b>	832	23 498	12 599	2007-01-19	2023-06-16
<b>ICARDA</b>	11 808	1 033 640	908 109	2007-02-13	2023-01-09
<b>ICRAF</b>	431	2 322	0	2011-09-03	2023-05-18
<b>ICRISAT</b>	6 048	297 367	78 543	2006-12-07	2021-11-26
<b>IITA</b>	1 171	48 871	0	2007-03-07	2022-02-09
<b>ILRI</b>	990	14 529	0	2007-02-22	2023-03-01
<b>IRRI</b>	9 718	791 218	455 292	2007-01-04	2023-06-29

**DRAFT RESOLUTION \*\*/2023****IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL  
SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

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**THE GOVERNING BODY,**

*Recalling* previous Resolutions on the operations and implementation of the Multilateral System, in particular, Resolution 2/2022;

*Recalling* the need to provide regular guidance to Contracting Parties and institutions that have concluded agreements under Article 15 of the International Treaty for the effective and efficient operations of the Multilateral System;

*Recalling* the provisions of Article 15.1 (a) of the International Treaty;

*Recalling* further the provisions of Articles 6.5 and 6.6 of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA);

**PART I: AVAILABILITY AND TRANSFER OF MATERIAL IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

1. *Welcomes* the information provided on the availability of material in the Multilateral System and its exchange and *reiterates* the request to the Secretary to update the report for the Eleventh Session;
2. *Appeals* to both Contracting Parties, and natural and legal persons to make their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture available in the Multilateral System, together with the relevant non-confidential characterization and evaluation data; and *further appeals* to donors to support characterization of collections conserved in national gene banks of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
3. *Invites* Contracting Parties and other holders of material to use, on a voluntary basis, the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) of the Global Information System for the identification of material available in the Multilateral System;

**PART II: OPERATIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

4. *Takes note* of the progress made since the Ninth Session with Easy-SMTA and the Data Store and *requests* the Secretary to continue to maintain the help-desk function on the operations of the Multilateral System;
5. *Welcomes* the publication of the online training course based on the Educational Module on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and *requests* the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to make it available in other official languages;
6. *Takes note* of the online training events and webinars organized since the Ninth Session to facilitate implementation of the Multilateral System and *requests* the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue to organize regional implementation workshops to support Contracting Parties, providers, users and other stakeholders in strengthening use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) and operations of the Multilateral System;
7. *Requests* the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to support Contracting Parties in the documentation and exchange of national experiences on implementation of the Multilateral System and to publish them on the website of the International Treaty;
8. *Requests* the Secretary to continue to work with the Article 15 institutions to build capacity among a broader range of providers, including natural and legal persons, to implement the Multilateral System and to report on use of the SMTA;

**PART III: PRACTICE OF THE CGIAR CENTERS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL ASSETS RELATED TO PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE<sup>11</sup>**

9. **Thanks** the CGIAR System for the submission of the report on the Status of Implementation of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets and the increased transparency in Centers' communications when entering into restrictive agreements concerning plant germplasm or information generated from the use of such germplasm;
10. **Invites** the CGIAR System to continue to report on the application of the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets to germplasm managed under the framework of the International Treaty, parts thereof, or information generated from the use of this germplasm;

**PART IV: OPERATION OF THE THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY<sup>12</sup>**

**Recalling** that the Governing Body, at its Third Session, had approved the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures for the carrying out of the roles and responsibilities of the Third Party Beneficiary, as identified and prescribed in the SMTA under the direction of the Governing Body;

**Recalling further** that, in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under an SMTA from any natural or legal persons;

**Recognizing** that the Third Party Beneficiary will require adequate financial and other resources, and that FAO acting as Third Party Beneficiary shall not incur any liabilities in excess of the funds available in the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve;

11. **Notes** the Report on the Operation of the Third Party Beneficiary and further **requests** the Secretary and FAO to continue to provide, at each Session of the Governing Body, such a report;
12. **Stresses** the importance, for the effective functioning of the Third Party Beneficiary, of Article 4.2 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures, according to which the Third Party Beneficiary may receive information on possible non-compliance with the obligations of the provider and recipient under an SMTA from the parties under the SMTA, or any other natural or legal persons;
13. **Decides** to maintain the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve for the 2024–2025 biennium at the current level of USD 283 280 and to review the same at its Eleventh Session, and **calls** upon Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities, to contribute to the Reserve;
14. **Authorizes** the Secretary to draw on the Third Party Beneficiary Operational Reserve as may be needed for implementation of the functions of the Third Party Beneficiary;
15. **Welcomes** the functional and cost-effective information technology tools and infrastructure that the Secretary has developed to facilitate the submission, collection and storage of information in the implementation of Article 4.1 of the Third Party Beneficiary Procedures and **requests** the Secretary to continue applying adequate measures to ensure the integrity and, where required, the confidentiality of information, while continuing the further development of the International Treaty information technology tools and infrastructure, including in accordance with the Vision and the Programme of Work of the Global Information System.

**PART V: REVIEWS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM AND OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE STANDARD MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT<sup>13</sup>**

16. **Requests** the Secretary to continue capacity development activities and awareness-raising efforts on the voluntary inclusion of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Multilateral System

<sup>11</sup> See also document IT/GB-10/23/16.4.2

<sup>12</sup> As proposed in document IT/GB-10/23/9.1.4

<sup>13</sup> As proposed in document IT/GB-10/23/9.1.2

by natural and legal persons, with the participation of national focal points and relevant stakeholders, subject to the availability of financial resources;

17. **Decides** to undertake the reviews and assessments foreseen under Articles 11.4 and 13.2d(ii) of the International Treaty at its Eleventh Session, and **requests** the Secretary to prepare the relevant documentation;
18. **Requests** the Secretary to undertake further research on possible measures to encourage natural and legal persons to make plant genetic resources for food and agriculture available in the Multilateral System, including through the convening of a small focus group, subject to the availability of resources.